GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2953
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Particulate Matter
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that as per the NGO Greenpeace study report, the level of hazardous PM 2.5 in India has exceeded that of China in the year 2015 for the first time;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is also aware of the increase in pollution level in India at an average rate of 2% over the past decade; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Green Peace India published a report titled 'Clean Air Action Plan: The Way Forward' in February, 2016.

(b) & (c) The National Ambient Quality Standards notified comprises of 12 pollutants, namely, PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO2, O3, CO, NH3, Benzene, lead, Arsenic, Nickel, BaP (particulate phase). The ambient air quality is monitored regularly in 254 cities, towns, and industrial areas of the country by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and NEERI for 3 to 8 pollutants. Analysis of these data indicates fluctuating trends on the basis of individual pollutants in ambient air. Out of the 46 million plus cities, ambient air quality data monitored under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) during 2015 available for 41 cities indicate that the values of SO2 are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 50 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). The value of NO2 in 9 cities (exceeded the NAAQS of 40 Âµg/m3 (annual standard); while the value of PM10, in 38 cities do not comply with the NAAQS of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). The PM10 value in 3 cities complies with the National Standard of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). The report brought out by the Green Peace India is on the basis of NASA Satellite data which is based on the extrapolated and constructed data without field validation.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to mitigate air pollution in metropolitan cities in the country include the following:-
(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes;

Taking note of the gravity of Air Pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:
(i) Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities and now extended to 23 cities;
(ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
(iii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
(iv) Comprehensive review of all Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste.
(v) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
(vi) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
(vii) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries.
(viii) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR.
(ix) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
(x) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.

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